

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 /067 W

----- 045813

R 041153Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5082

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN, TH

SUBJECT: M-16 RIFLES FOR THAILAND

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2361

(B) BANGKOK 9552

(C) BANGKOK 2092

1. US MISSION THAILAND HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INVMLVED
WITH THIS PROPOSED THAI PURCHASE OF M-16S.

2. WE HOPE M-16 SALES TO THAILAND WILL BE HANDLED
IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT REAWAKEN THAI RESENT-
MENT AGAINST COLT STEMMING FROM EARLIER CONTACTS
(REF C). ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION FROM COLT REPRESENTA-
TIVE HERE (REF B) SUGGESTS THAT THAI MAY WISH NEGOTIATE
PURCHASE DIRECTLY WITH COLT US, EXBASSY SINGAPORE HAS
EVIDENCE THAT THAI ARE IN A HURRY TO PURCHASE RIFLES
FROM CHARTERED INDUSTRIES. BOTH OUR SOURCES AND
SINGAPORE'S ARE, OF COURSE, INTERESTED PARTIES. WE
FEEL IT WOULD BE BEST AT THIS STAGE FOR THE USG NOT TO
INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIR BUT TO ALLOW COLT AND CHARTERED
INDUSTRIES TO WORK IT OUT BETWEEN THEM. IF THE THAI TAKE
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THE MATTER UP WITH US, WE WILL REASSESS THIS POSITION IN THE

LIGHT OF CONDITIONS AT THAT TIME.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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